



Georgia On My Mind

Monthly Newsletter of the ARRL Georgia Section



October 2023

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2023 Stone Mountain Hamfest

Nov. 4 (8 am - 4 pm) & Nov. 5 (8 am - 2 pm)



Includes the State ARRL Convention, Ham Exam Sessions, Indoor Exhibit Hall AND Flea Market, Concurrent Forums in two Halls, GoBox Contest, and much more.

Please check out the Hamfest Homepage:
<https://stonemountainhamfest.com/>

Upcoming Events

10/28 - Georgia Fall POTA Sprint

11/4-5 - Stone Mtn. Hamfest & ARRL Convention

Get your tickets ahead of time for \$8 at:
<https://stonemountainhamfest.com/index.php/ticket-booth/> online purchases end 10/28, at which time the fee will be \$10 at the gate.

For a listing of the Forums:
<https://stonemountainhamfest.com/index.php/speakersforums/>

For a list of Exhibitors:
<https://stonemountainhamfest.com/index.php/exhibitors/>

Georgia on My Mind is a monthly newsletter of the ARRL, Georgia Section, highlighting the activities of Amateur Radio Operators and Clubs within the State.

To submit pictures, articles, or notices, please email the editor Karen Spradlin, K4LJS, at GeorgiaSectionARRL@gmail.com before the 5th of each month.

To see previous issues of **Georgia on My Mind**:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1f6WBBhYzN-4Z-D69x0ceGIIPgCqulWI1?usp=share_link

State & International News

From Lee Stone - KT4LS
New GA ARES Web Site
Date: Thu, 14 Sep 2023

GA ARES now has a new web site. The records pointing to the new site may require some time to propagate based upon your Internet provider.

The site address is the same: <https://gaares.org>

If you are a GA ARES member, please Register using the link on the main menu. Registration is moderated in order to prevent unauthorized parties from registering and accessing our private content. The link to the member directory is only available to registered members. The Members link is only visible if you are logged in. A subset of the member information is available to all logged in members. All details are not accessible except by certain authorized users.

Because the site was moved from a temporary domain to gaares.org, some reconfiguration is necessary. The main item is the Document Library. There are public and private areas for our documents. This feature will be available as soon as the work is done.

This is what will happen when you register:

1. A mail message will be sent to the address that you used for registration.
2. A site administrator will confirm that you are a GAARES member and activate your account.
3. Your account will be activated.
4. A second mail message will be sent to confirming that your account is approved. You can then use the Login link on the site to login using the email address or username and the password that you created. There is a link in the message that will take you to the password reset page if there is an issue with your password.

After you register, please be patient. Your account will be activated as soon as possible. There is quite a bit of backend work to complete that could not be done until after the site was moved to the live domain.

The calendar is accessible by all parties. The goal is to post events across the state, especially nets. Many members missed the ARES Connect calendar when it was no longer available.

Much of the information from the old site is available under Quick Links. Use the Search feature. It searches the site except for the Members directory and Document Library. Those areas have their own search functionality.

The site still needs a lot of work regarding appearance and navigation. If you have WordPress and/or graphic arts skills, please volunteer to help. You can contact me.

If you find issues on the site other than the ones mentioned in this message, please append to this message. When time allows a form will be created on the site to report problems directly.

A ground-breaking study released this week shows the most detailed projected flight path yet of missing Malaysian Airlines flight MH370 and pinpoints the aircraft's final position to a tiny remote patch of the Southern Indian Ocean.

"...The authors of the new study are physicist and avionics expert [Richard Godfrey](#), Dr. Hannes Coetzee and Professor Simon Maskell. They used an archive of records of radio waves transmitted by ham operators at the time to identify and track MH370 where there was no radar coverage and only intermittent satellite data transfers, or pings. Scientists have found that the movement of aircraft through these radio waves is visible in the data recorded by what is known as the Weak Signal Propagation Reporter Network, or **WSPRnet**, better known as "whispernet." The idea of using amateur radio signals as a passive radar system to detect and track aircraft was first proposed in a NATO paper written by the Finnish Air Defence Academy in 2016..."

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/travel/news/location-of-crashed-malaysian-airlines-flight-mh-pinpointed-new-search-will-be-quick-avionics-expert-says/ar-AA1grC12?ocid=sapphireappshare>

ADEC NW ARES - Ricky Bramlett, NG4DX

Here is a fairly in-depth explanation of how space weather and solar activity can affect radio communications and propagation. It also covers different types of EMP's and how they work. I think you will enjoy this. It is a long video, but certainly not boring.

<https://www.facebook.com/100064359745180/posts/706673551487963/?mibextid=HCQPzM>

ARRL Urges Comments to FCC on 60-Meters

Amateur friends, please read the attached document and consider acting to make your comment heard with the FCC (if you haven't already). Your comments are critical to keeping the access and capabilities we have, at the moment, in place for 60 meters. The proposed changes will reduce the effective use of 60 meters to something less than we now have available. 60 meters serves as a good juncture between Amateur and other government communications entities (ie: Army Mars, Air Force Mars, SHARES, etc.) something that is critical during national or regional emergency events (I.E. Hurricanes). The proposed reduction of power and bandwidth essentially renders the access and capabilities we now have, to something significantly less or useful.

If you act on this using the links in the attached document, consider sharing your responses with the rest of us so that others have a possible reference for developing their own response. Some of us are less creative writers than others so in this case plagiarism is permissible and drives home the common message.

David Benoist
AG4ZR

<https://www.arrl.org/60-meter-band>
<https://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-urges-comments-to-fcc-on-60-meter-band>

ARRL Urges Comments to FCC on 60-Meters Proposal: How to File Your Comments

ARRL is asking that all radio amateurs urge the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to continue the existing use of the 60-meter band. A public comment period is open until October 30, 2023. ARRL encourages expressions of support to the FCC for the current 100 W ERP power limit (instead of reducing the power limit to 15 W EIRP) and continuing secondary access to the current channels.

To submit a filing of your comments for the FCC's consideration in the rulemaking process, go to the FCC webpage for the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking's (NPRM) Docket Number 23-120 at <https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/search/docket-detail/23-120>. If you wish to directly enter your comments, select the button labeled [SUBMIT AN EXPRESS FILING](#) or if you are uploading a document that

contains your comments, select [SUBMIT A STANDARD FILING](#). When submitting your comments, be sure the correct.

proceeding's docket number, 23-120, is included on the form. Your name and comments will be entered into the official public record of the proceedings and will be viewable by anyone who visits the docket web page.

While radio amateurs are encouraged to include any comments they would like in their submissions, they're especially encouraged to draw upon their personal experiences using the 60-meter band for public service purposes and for its location between the amateur 80- and 40-meter bands, which is critical to ensuring signal propagation to certain geographic areas during variations in time and the solar cycle. For example, ensuring radio amateurs have a continuum of communication capabilities across the 7 MHz, 5 MHz, and 3.5 MHz bands is valuable for emergency communications, especially between the US and Caribbean nations during hurricane season.

Some of the main points to comment on for this NPRM are:

- Urging the FCC to keep the four existing channels allocated to amateur radio on a secondary basis.
- Urging the FCC to keep the 100 W power limit for the four existing channels and the new 15 kHz subband.

ARRL Public Relations and Outreach Manager Sierra Harrop, W5DX, underscored the importance of commenting, urging members to speak up. "ARRL members make up the strongest voice in matters of amateur radio spectrum defense," said Harrop. "Your membership and participation in the rulemaking process both ensure ARRL continues to make the difference when our band privileges are threatened. Please join us in effort to protect our 60-meter band privileges."

ARRL has assembled a web page with instructions on how to submit your comments, as well as background information on the issue: www.arrl.org/60-meter-band.

State & Club News

SET

On Saturday, October 7, 2023, the GEMA/HS Emergency Communications Branch (ESF-2) hosted the Georgia Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and Auxiliary Communications (AUXCOMM) at both GEMA/HS Headquarters and GEMA/HS Forsyth, to conduct the 2023 GA ARES/AUXCOMM Near Vertical Incidence Sky-wave (NVIS) Antenna Exercise.

This exercise is part of the 2023 American Radio Relay League (ARRL) Simulated Emergency Test (SET). For a brief view, visit https://youtube.com/shorts/e_W5sGNZ-Q?si=sqWk6yiSZ98bV1Y

Greg Smith, WD4AUX



The GA ARES/AUXCOMM NVIS Exercise is in the rearview mirror, and now it's time to work on the AAR.

By all indications the exercise was a success, but like any human endeavor it wasn't perfect. That's why analyzing the lessons learned and making improvements is important.

I'll be putting an AAR meeting on the calendar for later in October, so if you participated in the NVIS Exercise but have not yet filled out the on-line AAR form, please do it as soon as possible.

Thanks!
Brian Haren, W8BYH

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeA_7FDy2HYoRcWStPCxeUYKctOdQHAzcY5v7hRrstdZF2o6A/viewform

SE District ARES

I would like to congratulate [Austin Hart](#) KK4NWX on becoming the newest Assistant Emergency Coordinator for Bulloch County!

ISS

Space Station Crew Uses HAM Radio To Call Earth (NA1SS)
<https://www.tiktok.com/t/ZT86LE8p4/>

Barrow Amateur Radio Club

I had to share!

We had a family retreat to Tugaloo State Park (K-2203) this week. My granddaughter, Vera (age 8) has been asking me to teach her CW so we did. My other granddaughter, Jules (age 6) joined in.

Vera is a very sharp young lady. As we were practicing numbers 1 – 5 she promptly sent them correctly. This was not on the air but using the radio with the transmitter disabled.

Vera asked, "What about 6 through 10?"

I explained we don't use "ten" but "zero" and 6 sounds like this.

She immediately says, "Oh! That just opposite of 1 through 5."

Wow!! Yes!

We had a great time and I made 2 activations from Tugaloo S.P. K-2203

Best 73 to all,
Mike, W4WYI
President, Barrow Amateur Radio Club, Winder



School Club Roundup

Walker County Schools LaFayette Middle School

Claimed Score: 100,100

Total Contacts: 572

Total Time on-air: 20hrs, 38min

States Contacted: 42

ALABAMA
ARKANSAS (LINGLE MS)
ARIZONA (MILKY WAY WIRELESS CLUB)
CALIFORNIA
COLORADO
CONNECTICUT
DELAWARE
FLORIDA
GEORGIA
IOWA (U. OF IOWA)
ILLINOIS (WATSEKA JR HIGH)
INDIANA (PURDUE U., R NELSON SNIDER HS)
KANSAS (KANSAS STATE U.)
LOUISIANA (LSU)
MAINE
MASSACHUSETTS
MARYLAND (U. OF MARYLAND, BALTIMORE)
MICHIGAN (U. OF MICHIGAN, MICHIGAN TECHNICAL U.)
MINNESOTA
MISSISSIPPI
MISSOURI
NEVADA
NEW HAMPSHIRE
NEW JERSEY
NEW MEXICO
NEW YORK
NORTH CAROLINA
NORTH DAKOTA
OHIO (YOUNGSTOWN STATE U., COLUMBIANA CLIPPERS, PATRICK HENRY SCHOOLS)
ONTARIO
OKLAHOMA (TIGER RADIO CLUB, MANGUM)
PENNSYLVANIA
RHODE ISLAND
SOUTH CAROLINA
SOUTH DAKOTA
TEXAS (TEXAS A&M, LAMPASSAS MS, LBJ HS)
UTAH (BYU)
VIRGINIA (4-H HAM RADIO CLUB)
VERMONT
WASHINGTON
WISCONSIN (U. OF WISCONSIN, MILWAUKEE SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING)
WEST VIRGINIA (WEST VIRGINIA U.)
WYOMING

Canadian Provinces Contacted: 5

ALBERTA
BRITISH COLUMBIA
MANITOBA
ONTARIO
QUEBEC

Foreign Countries Contacted: 11

ARGENTINA
BRAZIL
BERMUDA
CANADA
CUBA
FRANCE
IRELAND
JAMAICA
NETHERLAND
PANAMA
PORTUGAL
PUERTO RICO
URUGUAY
WALES

Total Foreign Country miles traveled: 81,856

22 Students Participated

Firsts from this group of Ramblers:

+100,000 points in an October School Club

Roundup

+192 contacts in one day of SCR

+500 plus contacts in a SCR ever (in 4 days of a 5-day competition week)

+572 contacts in a SCR (Fall or Spring) for the first time ever. (This has been a goal since this year's 8th graders were in 6th grade)

+ #1 made by David (3rd grade), #500 made by Azerah (8th grade) and #572 made by Ty (12th grade)

All of this was a direct result of student leadership: selflessness, patience, coachability, and a competitive spirit.

(Thanks to Ryder and Russell who were not on the air, but helped us behind the scenes this week.)

This week we learned that everyone, EVERYONE on our team matters.

Jody Carter

Computer Science Teacher

Sponsor, Rambler Radio Club (W4LMS)

Athens Radio Club

For our 3rd year, the Athens Radio Club is hosting the **Wicked 4 Halloween** special event POTA station at [Hard Labor Creek State Park](#) K-2184 in Rutledge, GA on 28 October 2023.

We will operate from Picnic Shelter #1 . The Shelter is located just past the park office on the right! You, your family and your friends are cordially invited to attend; even those without a license can participate. Nothing fancy here. Just a great time to come out and enjoy ham radio and Parks on the Air with fellow radio enthusiasts from the Athens Radio Club et. al. The only plans are to have a good time and play radio. No agenda, no schedule. Come and go as you please. Bring the family and make a day out of it. I'm sure there will be a bowl of candy and a cooler of water, so feel free to bring snacks and ghoulish treats to spread around.

We will have a round-table, pass the mic activation. We will keep a log for the club, and if you want personal credit for the activation, you'll need to be responsible for your own log (paper, HAMRS, N3FJP, etc). If you haven't sat around the table with a bunch of other hams and passed to mic around to make a POTA contact, it is a true experience. *(those that have participated in past pass the mic events, share your experience with the group)*



QSL Cards like this one will be sent to any ham who sends us their own card for QSO confirmation.

UGA Games Communications Support

Each fall The Athens Radio Club provides communications support to first aid services at the University of Georgia's home football games. While the volunteers may get to watch some of the game, it's providing communications that's mission critical to protecting the tens of thousands of attendees, of whom some experience emergencies.

Bob Herrin, KN4JLL, Athens Radio Club Public Services, coordinates radio communications in collaboration with the FirstAid-Dawgs (Red Cross). The UGA

Athletic Department provides Sanford Stadium personalized working passes. Pictured here is Sam Strang, KN4SPF, Athens Radio Club member, with a First AidDawg volunteer at the UGa-Ball State Game on September 10, 2023. (score UGa 45; Ball State 3).



Great morning helping [Classic Race Services](#) with course comms for the Owl Flight 5k.



Amateur Radio Club of Augusta

Congratulations to Jessica Coleman (KG4YVK) for earning her General Class AND Extra Class licenses during the Exam Session this morning and for winning the Baofeng UV-5R portable radio pre-programmed with all of the CSRA Repeater Frequencies provided as part of the joint amateur radio incentive program conducted by the Amateur Radio Club of Columbia County, Inc. and the Amateur Radio Club of Augusta!

There were a total of 1 Technician Class license, 3 General Class Licenses and 1 Extra Class License earned at the Exam Session today. Congratulations all!

A very special Thank You to all of the Volunteer Examiners who make these test sessions possible.



Workday at the 145.290 Repeater site on September 23.



A beautiful day for the Best Dam Ride 2023. Approximately 170 entrants participated in one of the 4 routes ranging from 29 to 100 miles and included a trail ride along Bartram Trail at Lake Thurmond (Clarks Hill for all us old timers.)

We all had a good time practicing our hobby and being fed some great BBQ from Motts BBQ at the end of the ride



Club Activities

MGRA – Middle Georgia Radio Association

What's a vacation without a little ham radio? We are enjoying exploring New England. I activated POTA and SOTA in Maine and New Hampshire. Today I checked a bucket list item by operating CW at W1AW. *Aaron Ray, N4ARY*



Cherokee Capital Amateur Radio Society

Some pics from our club picnic on Saturday lots of POTA activity, socializing and good food thanks to chef Felton AF4DN



Coastal Amateur Radio Society

The CARS club will be hosting a Ham test session on December 9th at 0900 hrs. If you would like to take your first test or upgrade to a higher level, please come and take advantage. We will be at the White Bluff Presbyterian Church in their education building. Please email Bryan Strickland, N4GSP, @ Bryanhstrickland@gmail.com and let me know you are coming. I will need your FCC FRN number. I will need this number even if you have tested with us before. Also, please arrive a few minutes early for registration so that we may start promptly at 0900 hrs.

Lowell Rieger, NY4D, will be hosting a HAM CRAM for the General Test at the church on December 2nd at 0900 hrs. He will cover technical theory concepts that we see as problematic for a lot of folks and try to assist with better understanding. We won't be covering memorization of rules and safety regulations.

Please email Lowell at ny4dradio@gmail.com if you plan to attend.

Club Activities

The Georgia Jewel

September 15-16

Pictured:

Ricky Bramlett, NG4DX Pickens Co.

Rick Hillstead, N4RAH Pickens Co.

"Murdock" Gragg, W4JNR Pickens Co.

Frank Dean, K4SJR Pickens Co.

Kevin Igarashi-Ball, W4KIB Gwinnett Co.

Charles Evans, WA4QYY Bartow Co.

Greg Smith, WD4AUX Bartow Co.

Chris Beals, KO4QBC DeKalb Co.

Yosef Beck, KQ4HIR DeKalb Co.



Straight Key Century Club

K5MEG Earns the Coveted Straight Key Century Club (SKCC) Senator Award

Article by ND1J

First licensed in 2015, Meg Blubaugh - K5MEG (Extra-Class), got the urge to learn Morse Code about two years ago. She had been watching her hubby, ND1J, enjoy CW QSOs for years and was intrigued with it. She took on the challenge and joined Long Island CW Club (LICW), whose goal is to teach and increase the interest in Morse Code. LICW conducts many classes each week on the Zoom platform, from very beginner to high-speed expert level courses. Meg started plugging away with some assistance and Elmering from ND1J. Like everyone learning CW, she went through periods of *"I am never going to be able to do this"* feelings. But, after just a few months, K5MEG felt comfortable enough to take the big plunge and actually get on the air with CW. Before long, she was taking the much bigger plunge and calling CQ!

As Meg gained proficiency, CW started becoming really enjoyable. She joined the Straight Key Century Club (SKCCgroup.org), which gives free, lifetime memberships to any ham who applies. SKCC's goal is to further the art of CW and Morse Code using "straight keys" rather than electronic keyers. Straight keying, by SKCC standards, means using any of three mechanical keyer types: a tap-the-button "straight-key", a "bug" (the generic term for the famous Vibroplex Semi-Automatic Key), or a "side-swiper" (or "cootie" key). All SKCC qualifying QSOs require that both stations use one of those types of keys for the entire length of each QSO and exchange signal report, name, state, and SKCC number. Meg has become highly proficient with both the regular straight-key and the side-swiper and is slowly learning to use the "bug".

For those unfamiliar with SKCC awards, there are 4 levels of membership "status". New members get an SKCC

number. After 100 qualifying SKCC QSOs, the member achieves the "Centurion" award and appends the membership number with a "C" in all QSOs. After another 50 QSOs, the member earns the "Tribune" award and adds a "T" to the SKCC number instead of a "C". Now, the real challenge starts. Members must earn 7 **more** T's, each requiring 50 QSOs, before they are allowed to start working on the fourth membership level. That means an additional 350 QSOs to get to Tx8. Once Tx8 is earned, the final trek to the coveted SKCC "Senator" Award begins. This award requires 200 more qualifying QSOs. In summary, from start to finish, the Senator award requires a minimum of 700 qualifying QSOs with no duplicate stations in each of the levels. On Sept 21, 2023, K5MEG was awarded SKCC Senator, becoming the organization's **766th Senator out of the approximately 27,800 SKCC members** worldwide. She is now proudly appending an "S" to her SKCC number: 24217**S**!

Meg's next goal is to earn the SKCC "Marathon" Award, which requires 100 SKCC-qualifying QSOs of at least **one hour each**. She has been doing Marathon QSOs for about 7 months now and has 56 in her log. Her Elmer, ND1J, is incredibly proud of her accomplishment and was honored to be the other station for her first QSO as Senator. Congratulations, K5MEG!



Dots, Dashes & Tidbits

NW GA District ARES is still going strong, with its Digital Exercises. Join in the Fun, see below.

Come join in on the HF Vara P2P Exercise on Tuesday nights. The time is 6 pm- 8 pm. We have added the 40 meter band as you can see below. We're also using the 60 meter band. Send a simple Winlink message to each Net Control when you connect. Make sure the message is sent as a P2P message when you do.

Here are the frequencies to be used.

CF-Center Frequency / DF- Dial Frequency

80 meters - K4HYJ - CF 3597.00 / DF 3595.50
60 meters - NG4DX - CF 5348.00 / DF 5346.50
40 meters - W4JNR - CF 7084.00 / DF 7082.50
10 meters - KN4CNX - CF 2808.00 / DF 2878.50

A.R.E.S. Monthly Report for July 2023

Number of DECs/ECs reporting - 41
Number of ARES nets - 1197
Nets with NTS liaison - 5
Number of Exercises &
Training Sessions - 496 (2406 hrs.)
Number of Public Service events - 48 (1036 hrs.)
Number of Emergency Operations - 6 (112 hrs.)
Number of SkyWarn Operations - 5 (20 hrs.)

Total of Exercises & Events 555

Total of person hours 3573

Georgia Section Nets

ARES Phone & Digital Nets

Note: GA ARES Net information can be found at gaares.org – Select Nets & Frequencies

Georgia Section ARES Net:

Section Net Manager – Frank Hobbs, KN4QJ

kn4qj@arrl.net

Net control operator – Frank Hobbs, KN4QJ

Alt. net control operator – Jim Altman, W4UCK

Georgia Section ARES Digital Nets:

Section Digital Net Manager, Don Jones, K4GO

k4go@arrl.net

Digital Team Leaders also serve as net control operators.

Winlink Team Lead, Russell Prevost, AB4QQ

Net control operators: Brian Freeman KN4DLT, Mark Bell N7GRB, Bill Hall K9HRO, David Blubaugh, ND1J

PSK & Traffic Nets Team Lead, Del Davis, W4DEL

Interim Team Lead: Kory Oldham, W4RZ

Net control operators: Bob Garza K4TLG, Don Jones K4GO Ken Wallis KM4HOS, Richard Austin W4BYT

D-RATS Net Team Lead, Hank Blackwood, K4HYJ

Net control operators: Rial Sloan AI4ZV, Brian Freeman KN4DLT, Ed Walraven KM4IOA, Carter Grant KN4KBL

Georgia POTA

While we wait for next April and the 2nd Annual Georgia Parks on the Air event, who's making plans for an even bigger push to enjoy radio in the Georgia Parks? Coming up soon is the Georgia Fall POTA Sprint on Oct. 28. We will have a forum at the Stone Mountain Hamfest on Nov. 4-5. I'll be glad to present classes on Georgia State Parks on the Air at club meetings.

<https://linktr.ee/georgiastateparksontheair?fbclid=IwAR3sOOdV7ONmysxDVSyLGRWE8jnvQTSyHyXRx0mmwGmjPgUjH5XneoBt-g>

Colquitt County Fall POTA Sprint

See <http://wd4kow.org> for more info about the Georgia Fall POTA Sprint. October 28 from 10am - 2pm eastern time.

ARC of Butts County

Good turnout for the POTA exercise. Even a visiting ham from AL showed up.

